



Update Regarding Fall 2011 Delta Roundtable

Requested Action: Receive information about progress regarding the fall 2011 Delta Roundtable. Advise and direct Delta Conservancy staff regarding next steps, as necessary.

Recommendation

Staff continue to work with WEF to complete final program for the roundtable and promote the event for Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex, Sacramento.

Funding

Funding to underwrite the Delta Roundtable was secured by the Conservancy. The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) gave the Conservancy a \$25,000 grant and the State and Federal Water Contractors Agency (SWFCA) gave the Conservancy a \$7,500 grant.

With these funds, the Water Education Foundation (WEF) was able to secure the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex venue, and begin the developing a “save the date” flyer and other publicity materials.

About the Resources Legacy Fund. RLF helps philanthropic institutions and individuals become catalysts for conserving and restoring natural landscapes, protecting and enhancing marine systems, maintaining the integrity of wild lands and rivers, and strengthening supportive policies and organizations. Among other things, its Western Conservation Program is focused on creating more sustainable approaches to California water policy and governance that protect ecological and economic health, focusing on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

About the State and Federal Water Contractors Agency. SFCWA’s mission is to assist its member agencies in assuring a sufficient, reliable and high-quality water supply for their customers; maximize the efficient operation of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project. The State and Federal Contractors Water Agency has 3 main program areas for addressing Delta issues: Science Review and Evaluation, Delta

Governance and Operations. SFCWA dedicates its resources in each area in an effort to achieve co-equal goals for water supply and promoting a healthy ecosystem.

Program Changes

Jim Mayer, executive director of California Forward, has agreed to be the keynote speaker for this event. Prior to his stint at California Forward, Mr. Mayer was the founding executive director of the New California Network, a nonpartisan project to improve the state's fiscal decision-making, and the former executive director of the Little Hoover Commission. While at the commission, Mayer authored *Still Important, Still Imperiled* report reviewing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

California Forward is a bipartisan public interest effort to bolster democracy and improve government performance in California. In *Smart Government: Making California Work Again*, California Forward provides a framework for state and local government collaboration that is outcome focused and fosters regional collaboration, which are also criteria for the Delta Conservancy in achieving its mandates. A summary document about the framework—*Smart Government: Making California Work Again*—is attached; the full framework document can be found at http://caforward.3cdn.net/6af3a7053db0ed8483_fum6baa9z.pdf.

Conservancy and WEF staff are working closely to settle on a final program and lists of panelists for the workshop. The focus for the second half of the workshop, including the luncheon speaker, will be on public-private partnerships and innovative approaches to consider as the Conservancy carries out its mandates.

Background

The Board approved in concept the fall 2011 Delta Roundtable at its March 16, 2011, meeting. Conservancy staff was directed to contact proposed speakers and seek partnerships to carry out the roundtable.

Attachments

Attachment 1: *Smart Government: Making California Work Again* executive summary

Contact

Nancy Ullrey, Program Lead
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
(916) 375-2087



Smart Government: Making California Work Again ---Executive Summary---

California may be struggling with a budget crisis and a sluggish economy – but we can fix it. Our state can have a prosperous and environmentally sustainable economy, one that provides equal opportunities for all. To get there, governments at the state and local levels must work together to provide cost-effective services and better results. *California Forward* calls this *Smart Government*. It doesn't happen today as much as it should.

California has a nearly \$90 billion budget without a unified vision and strategy for achieving statewide goals. Most of the state's essential public services are delivered locally, but the state government still sets most of the rules around how the money is spent. Until this relationship between the state and local governments is fundamentally reformed, the state's ongoing budget crisis cannot be fully resolved – and the state's government cannot function effectively.

In the *Smart Government Framework*, *California Forward* outlines a restructuring plan that can produce better results than the current system for both taxpayers and those who rely on government services. It introduces five new priorities for the state, along with five comprehensive proposals for reform.

FIVE 'SMART GOVERNMENT' PROPOSALS

1 – FOCUS ON OUTCOMES

State operations should be aligned with measurable outcomes.

2 – ALIGN AUTHORITY WITH RESPONSIBILITY

Funding and program authority should move to local governments.

3 – ADJUST THE STATE ROLE

The state's role should shift to oversight and technical assistance.

4 – FOSTER REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Local governments should be incentivized to work together.

5 – EVALUATE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS

State and local agencies should have their functions re-examined.

SMART GOVERNMENT

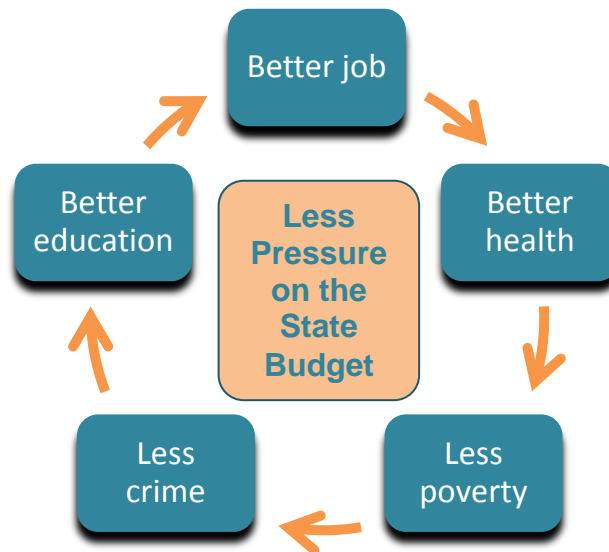
OUR VISION

California Forward's goal is a state government that works. This goal is shaped by the "Three Es:" At every level, government should be making simultaneous progress toward achieving:

- A Prosperous **E**conomy
- A Quality **E**nvironment
- Community **E**quity

The draft proposals in the *Smart Government* Framework are built around a simple idea: California's three most significant areas of state general fund spending – education, health and human services, and public safety – are fundamentally interrelated. Better education leads to better jobs, which leads to a healthier population, less poverty, less crime, and, ultimately, less pressure on government budgets.

THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE



Too often, these relationships are obscured by the current governance system. *Smart Government* offers a straightforward approach – along with a comprehensive vision – aimed at addressing this problem.

The state budget is already implicitly addressing these issues, given that the majority of it is spent on education, health and welfare, and prisons. *Smart Government* would require the state to be explicit about the outcomes it is trying to achieve.

In exchange for more authority and flexibility to improve the results of locally-administered programs, local governments would have to hold themselves accountable to these programs' results, to collaborate with other local governments, and to be more transparent.

SMART GOVERNMENT

THE BIG FIVE OUTCOMES

Californians need to know what they are getting for their tax dollars and what government is achieving. The *Smart Government* Framework introduces five new priorities for the state and five comprehensive proposals for reform. The intention is to focus structural and fiscal governance reforms on the Big Five Outcomes below, not just to balance the budget or close a shortfall – but to realign public programs at all levels to deliver these results.

BIG FIVE OUTCOMES

- Increased Employment
- Improved Education
- Decreased Poverty
- Decreased Crime
- Improved Health

If Californians can come together to restructure the relationship between the state and local governments, the state will see immediate benefits, from better outcomes to increased civic engagement. Studies show that if local governments could integrate services in programs like CalWORKs, public safety, and mental health – and just bring them to the same levels of effectiveness and efficiency as other states – **California could save billions of dollars each year.**

Restructuring California's government, in other words, can be the beginning of a virtuous cycle – improved education, more workforce participation, better health outcomes, and less crime – that can lead to the best possible outcome: A government that achieves positive social gains in a financially sustainable way.

SMART GOVERNMENT

BACKGROUND

The draft proposals described here are only a summary of *California Forward's* comprehensive [Smart Government Framework](#), which provides more detail on how to overcome the challenges involved in the complex task of restructuring.

These proposals have been collaboratively developed in ongoing conversations with statewide groups of local government practitioners, stakeholders, and experts involved in a Local Government Task Force, a series of Stakeholder Roundtables, and *California Forward's* Speak Up California civic engagement forums.

Preceding each proposal is a principle statement derived from discussions with these experts and stakeholders that have helped define *California Forward's* approach. The *California Forward Action Fund* plans to pursue these proposals through all appropriate avenues – whether through the initiative process, legislation, or executive order.

Note: The proposals are intended to facilitate discussions regarding governance in California and to inform future reform proposals. They are not at this point *California Forward* recommendations, nor do they reflect a view about any specific legislative proposal.

Tell us what you think

Read the complete version of the Framework and
comment online at:

CAFWD.org/framework

SMART GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

The *Smart Government* Framework would restructure California’s government by aligning it to the goals of improved education, higher employment rates, better health outcomes, less poverty, and less crime. The most effective way to do this is by moving more authority and flexibility to local governments, while changing the role of the state and encouraging more regional collaboration.

1 - FOCUS ON OUTCOMES

- The state budget must be aligned to the Big Five Outcomes.
- The state budget is already implicitly addressing these outcomes, given that the majority of it is spent on education, health and welfare, and prisons.
- The state should be explicit about the outcomes it is trying to achieve: Programs should measure their progress toward these goals and make program corrections where needed.

2 - ALIGN AUTHORITY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESULTS

- To promote innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness, the state should grant control of programs and revenues for locally delivered services to local governments.
- **Program authority:** Improving local program results should be the primary responsibility of local government. To accomplish this, local governments will need more authority.
- **Aligning fiscal authority with program responsibility:** Specifically, local governments need a strategic plan and resource base that encourages them to integrate their services—and to focus their resources on improving outcomes. This will require the following:
 1. **Program integration:** Local governments should create constitutionally protected local action plans to define local program authority and service delivery. These plans should include provisions to increase transparency and accountability for results.
 2. **Protection of local revenue:** To carry out these strategies, local governments need more authority over how they spend local resources. This authority will be contingent upon the development of the strategic action plans described above.

3 - ADJUST THE STATE ROLE

- The state’s role should shift to one of leadership, setting a statewide vision, and technical assistance. The state will also continue to oversee many statewide programs, from Medi-Cal and the courts to higher education and state prisons.
- The state’s relationship with local governments should focus on: Measuring progress toward the Big Five Outcomes, incentivizing collaboration among local programs, sharing best practices among local governments, and developing fiscal incentives that allow local governments to retain savings.

4 - FOSTER REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- The state constitution should be amended to allow cities, counties, schools, community colleges, and special districts to create regional convening and coordinating bodies devoted to meeting large-scale challenges like developing a robust pipeline between schools and jobs.
- Each region should choose for itself whether to grant this authority to, for example, COGs, state universities, or some other existing regional collaborative body.

5 – EVALUATE EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS

- County LAFCOs should expand their analysis of local government functions to reduce complexity, reduce costs, and improve performance.